

Mission Trip Fundraising Ideas

Consider fundraising activities that will include your church including youth, and other groups. Also consider promoting activities in the neighborhood around your church – it's also a great way to get new visitors to stop by your church!

Portrait day. Requires a professional or semi-professional photographer with equipment to donate their time and service. An opportunity for individuals, couples, families or even pets to get nice portraits at a great price and help the mission effort. Can be promoted outside the church body in the local neighborhood. Photographer can donate actual materials (eg photo paper) or, recover their cost from the sales.

Carnival event. Ticket sales for kids games with prizes and lots of junk food from cotton candy to hot dogs.

Gift basket auction. This really opens the door for creativity because all that's needed is a basket and something to put in it... anything can go in from food, to gift certificates to cool items people just have an extra one of. Baskets are displayed with a description (if needed) along side of an auction sheet and people place their names and (hopefully) increasing bids on the sheets – highest bidders buy the baskets.

Jewelry crafting and sales. This is a great one for the Christmas season or, combined with other events and gatherings. Using beads and jewelry crafting items from Wal-Mart or Michael's Crafts (for example). I can also get hand-crafted jewelry from Nicaragua – typical prices are from \$1 - \$3 per item shipped (e.g. necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings).

Silent auction. Good for new items, unique items, antiques, and other cool stuff that can be donated. Items can be placed on tables somewhere in the church (pending approval) for a designated amount of time with silent/written bids take for the items until the time period ends.

Online Garage Sale. Find someone who is already an eBay seller and have people send them photos and descriptions of items they will donate. Auction them on eBay with proceeds going to the mission fund. To keep things simple, the person donating the items also donates shipping the item to the buyer and notifies the eBay seller of the shipping details and/or tracking number.

Community garage/yard sale at the church

Community cleanup. A group gets pledges from a neighborhood or community for each pound of trash cleaned up by the group.

Aluminum recycling. Create a deposit area for rinsed/smashed aluminum cans – 'your trash is our treasure'. That's a lot of cans if everyone at church just brings in their soda cans.

Easter lily sales. Bulbs planted indoors in February so plants are available for sale at Easter.

Indoor or outdoor markets. Craft sales combined with unique foods, fun foods, foods prepared on site... Invite the church and everyone in the neighborhood.

Printer cartridge and/or cell phone recycling (<http://www.fundingfactory.com>)

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Christmas-related (start early):

Crafting and selling various Christmas decorations and ornaments to be sold both inside and outside of the local church body. Tree ornaments, bead decorations, table top decorations, etc. Potential help may come from the youth group, individuals, home groups or other groups that meet regularly.

Christmas ornament crafting. Organized event with bulk materials pre-purchased before the Christmas season. Participant attend for a fee or donation and receive materials and instructions to make their own hand-crafted Christmas ornaments.

Christmas wreath sales. Made by volunteers with natural and/or man-made materials.

Food-related:

- BBQ's
- Spaghetti/Italian Dinners
- Valentine's Dinner
- Latin theme, build a taco-salad bar
- Pancake breakfast

Service related (a good place for youth groups to plug in)

- Lawn care, leaf-raking, snow shoveling
- Car washes
- Hanging and un-hanging Christmas lights
- Misc. creative services
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Sales related (examples)

- <http://www.withinhisgrace.com/>
- <http://www.abcfundraising.com/>
- <http://www.efundraising.com/>
- <http://www.theawristocrat.com/index.html>
- <http://www.calendarwarehouse.com/>
- <http://www.calendarsforless.com/>